



## The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

### Witness Statement


Akhtar Ali

Taken by [REDACTED]  
By telephone call  
On 13 December 2021


1. My name is Akhtar Ali. I am 64 years' old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My eyesight is good and I had no concerns about my sight back in 2015. I don't wear glasses. I am a [REDACTED].
2. I do not remember the date of the incident but I do remember that it was a Sunday morning roughly about half seven or quarter to eight in the morning. It was light and the weather was alright. It wasn't raining. I was on my way to [REDACTED] as we open at 8 am on a Sunday. I was travelling from my home to [REDACTED] which is in [REDACTED]. I was driving a white Vauxhall Vivaro van registration [REDACTED].
3. I travelled along Dunnikier Way and turning into Hendry Road travelling south. There's a garage filling station there, an Esso, you go past there, then there's a mini roundabout which has a right turn into Templehall Avenue. From the mini roundabout, you go straight on Hendry Road then you come to another mini roundabout. There was a left turn off that roundabout into Hayfield Road, which leads towards the Hospital. That's where the incident was happening. That's where it took place, just east of the mini roundabout and about 100 yards up Hayfield Road. The incident was on the right-hand side, as you face onto Hayfield Road from the roundabout.

Signed..... [REDACTED] .....

4. The first thing I noticed was a small car, like a Fiesta or a Corsa type, was parked on the roundabout and when I approached the roundabout, you could see the what was happening over there. Obviously, because the car was parked there, I had to stop and noticed the incident. I was watching the incident through the front windscreen of the car. I had a clear view of the events.
  
5. I seen two police officers pinning down a person on the pavement. I couldn't say if the person was a man or a woman. I can't describe the appearance of the man on the ground or the police officers. All I seen was the two officers pinning somebody down. I presumed it was a man as I doubted they would be pinning a lady down like that. I could see the man's head was facing towards the houses and the feet were towards the roadside. The police officers were on either side of the man's body. One officer was facing towards me and one was facing towards the hospital. The officer facing towards me was the furthest away from me and was towards the head side of the man's body. The officer facing away from me was closer to me and was towards the middle of the man's body. The man was on the floor face down, and the police officers were kneeling down and had their knees over this person, and they were pinning him down. There was a police car and police van parked on the left hand side of the road. I seen another woman officer cross the road towards the two vehicles; she was going from where the incident was happening across the road towards the vehicles. I can't describe the female officer other than to say I think she was wearing a hat.
  
6. I could see one of the police officers, the one facing me had his knee on the man's back and a hand over his body. It was just the same with the other officer, he was using force and keeping the man down. Although I couldn't say for sure whether that officer's knee was on the man's body. You could barely see part of the side of the man's body nearest to me because the officer facing away from me was on this side and in the way.

Signed.....  .....

7. I am asked if there was anything about the officers' posture or anything that I saw that pointed to the fact that the officers were putting pressure on the man who was on the ground. Yes, I would say their posture suggested the officers were pinning the man down. I can't describe it in any other way than that. I don't know how much pressure they would be using or how much force they were using. All I could see was that the two officers were pinning him down.
8. I didn't see any police equipment or anything in the police officers hands. I remember seeing a man standing on the right hand side of Hayfield Road, on the pavement, watching the incident. He was further away from me than the incident. He was towards the hospital side of the road and the incident was happening in the middle, and the car and myself were on the mini roundabout.
9. The car in front of me was stationary on the roundabout. The car was pointing south down Hendry Road. I noticed that the people in the car in front of me, whoever they were, were videoing the incident on their phone. A man was videoing the incident. I'm not sure how many people were in the car, at least one. I couldn't say if he was in the passenger seat or driver's seat.
10. I was stopped for less than a minute. I wasn't watching for that long, maybe 20/30 seconds. By the time I stopped and manoeuvred the van around, that was it. I really didn't stop and stay there. As I said, the other car was parked there. That's why I had to slow down and come to nearly a stop because obviously the other car was on the roundabout.
11. I don't remember any other police officers other than the three officers I have described. Once I passed that roundabout at Hayfield Road, I went towards the next roundabout where the valley is. There was another police car coming from that side towards the roundabout with its lights flashing. Then I went further on towards where the old Forth Park Hospital is, at that next roundabout, there was another police van coming up that road with the sirens going.


Signed..........

12. I've not spoken to any other witnesses. I don't even know who the other witnesses are. I'm aware that there's plenty of things been going around in the media, some of which I've read. I'm asked if I think what I've read has influenced my evidence, I would say no. I'm only stating what I've seen on the day and that's it. Other than that, there wasn't really much I'd witnessed. All I seen was the two officers pinning someone down to the ground and that's basically it.

13. I've been asked about a statement I gave to PIRC in May 2015. I'm told that the statement states that I said that *"Both officers were using their both hands to restrain the person as well as one of their knees."* I think that is correct. I'm also told that this statement records that I said *"I got the impression that the person on the ground was trying to get up and the officers were using force to keep him down"*. It's been that long since I gave the statement. At that time, my memory was clearer than it is now. If I said that at the time, it would've been correct. I can't remember now what I saw that gave me the impression the man was trying to get up. It's just human nature that if somebody's pinning you down, that you'll obviously try to get up. As I said, for the length of time that I seen the incident, you can't form a very clear picture of what's happened. I'm just passing by and I'm seeing the two officers pin somebody down to the floor. It's not as if I made a special point to stop and watch this thing.

14. In that same statement, I'm told that when asked about the position of the man's body on the ground I said *"I couldn't say if the person was face up or face down."* Having heard that, I would say that I can't say for sure whether he was face up or face down.

15. If there is any difference between this statement and the statement I gave previously to PIRC in 2015, this earlier statement should be preferred. My memory of the incident was much clearer at that time. After I gave my PIRC statement, I remember the statement was read out to me to check the content.

Signed.....  .....

16. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed..........Date..... 31/3/22

